

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 18 June 1992

The week in statistics ...

- ❑ Male full-time employment falls while unemployment rises 2
- ❑ April bonus for retail trade 3
- ❑ Detached houses slip back but total housing starts rise 4
- ❑ Housing finance forges ahead 4
- ❑ Road freight movement down 5
- ❑ All the week's releases 6
- ❑ Calendar of key releases up to 30 June 7
- ❑ The latest ...
 - key State indicators 7
 - key national indicators 8

Male full-time employment falls while unemployment rises

Seasonally adjusted employment decreased in May 1992 mainly due to a fall in male full-time employment. This decrease was partly offset by a rise in male part-time employment. Increases were also recorded in the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate.

Employment

The May 1992 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,663,000, a fall of 9,400 since April. Full-time employment fell by 16,700, with a fall of 22,100 in the number of males employed full time. Part-time employment increased by 6,900 to 1,799,200, with an increase of 15,600 in male part-time employment outweighing a fall of 8,700 in the number of females employed part time. Trend estimates of total employment have shown small decreases in the last three months.

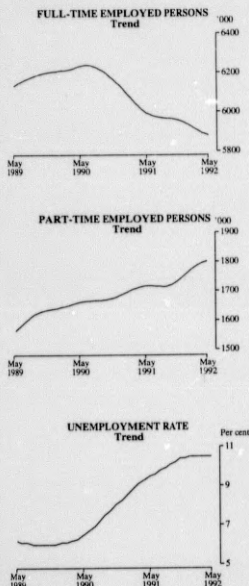
Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for May 1992 was 905,900, an increase of 19,200 since April. Male unemployment increased by 12,600 to 564,200, the main component being a rise of 10,800 in the number of males seeking full-time work. Female unemployment rose by 6,600 to 341,700, mainly due to an increase of 5,400 in the number of females seeking part-time work. Trend estimates of total unemployment have been steady since January 1992 with the rising trend in persons seeking full-time work broadly balanced by the falling trend for those seeking part-time work.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate was 10.6 per cent in May, an increase of 0.2 percentage points since April. The male and female unemployment rates both rose by 0.2 percentage points to 11.3 per cent and 9.6 per cent respectively. Trend estimates of the total unemployment rate have been steady at 10.5 per cent since January 1992.

Participation rate

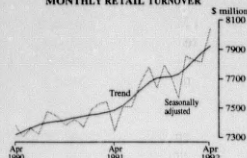
The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate for May 1992 was 62.7 per cent, unchanged from April. Male and female participation rates were both steady at 74.2 per cent and 51.4 per cent respectively. The trend participation rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 62.7 per cent.



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Unemployment rate — per cent —	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total employed		
	— '000 —				
1992 —					
February	5,919.7	1,785.7	7,705.5	907.8	63.2
March	5,903.1	1,787.7	7,690.8	900.1	63.0
April	5,880.0	1,792.3	7,672.3	886.7	62.7
May	5,863.7	1,799.2	7,663.0	905.9	62.7

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER



April bonus for retail trade

The seasonally adjusted estimate of turnover for retail and selected service establishments rose by 2.9 per cent in April 1992. One possible factor in the increase was the one-off family allowance bonus payment made early in April.

This increase was also reflected in the month to month movements in the trend estimates with average growth over the three months ended April 1992 being 0.7 per cent. The annual growth rate (April 1992 over April 1991) was 5.8 per cent.

'Other' food stores (takeaway food stores, fish shops, ice cream parlours, bread and cake shops, and fruit and vegetable shops) continue to show strong growth, averaging 1.4 per cent over the last three months. Grocers are showing moderate growth. Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs continue to improve while department stores and clothing and fabric stores are showing little or no growth.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

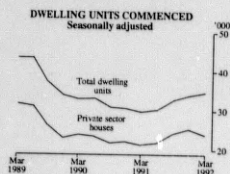
	Original value in April 1992 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended April 1992	12 months ended April 1992
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,314	0.5	0.5
Butchers	183	1.1	0.2
Other food stores	559	1.4	1.2
<i>Total food group</i>	<i>3,056</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	918	0.2	-0.4
Department and general stores	823	0.0	0.4
Clothing and fabrics stores	569	0.1	0.4
Electrical stores	394	0.1	0.2
Pharmacies	331	1.1	0.4
Newsagents	268	1.3	0.8
Other industries	1,369	n.a.	n.a.
<i>All industries</i>	<i>7,729</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.5</i>

New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia continue to show moderate growth while South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory are showing weak growth.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER
Percentage change in State trend estimates

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust.
1992 —								
January	0.6	0.4	0.8	-0.2	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.5
February	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.7
March	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7
April	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.6

Detached houses slip back but total housing starts rise



The number of dwelling units commenced in the March quarter 1992 rose by 2.5 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms, the fourth consecutive quarterly increase. The rise in the March quarter was entirely due to the continuing increase in significance of medium to high density housing (townhouses, flats, apartments, etc.) commencements. Private sector house commencements declined significantly (6.3%).

While the total number of dwelling units commenced in the quarter decreased in New South Wales (2.7%) and Victoria (8.6%), this was more than offset by strong growth in Queensland (8.0%), South Australia (7.1%), Western Australia (4.3%), Tasmania (19.0%) and the Australian Capital Territory (33.5%).

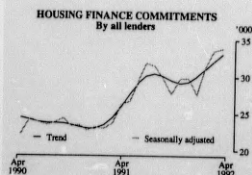
DWELLING UNIT COMMENCEMENTS
March Quarter 1992

	Private sector houses		Total dwelling units	
	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter
Original	22,225	-14.9	32,019	-9.3
Seasonally adjusted	23,729	-6.3	34,720	2.5

In original terms, dwelling commencements fell in the March quarter, with the private sector accounting for all of the decrease. Public sector dwelling commencements rose sharply by 18.1 per cent, primarily due to increases in New South Wales (272 dwellings), Western Australia (188), and Northern Territory (111).

For further information, order the publication *Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary* (8750.0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

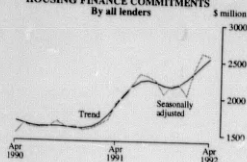
Housing finance forges ahead



The trend in the number of dwelling units financed moved upwards for the fifth successive month in April 1992. The provisional trend estimate for the month of April was 33,167 dwelling units, 1,039 units (3.2%) more than in March 1992 and 7,183 units (27.6%) more than in April 1991.

The April increase in the trend estimate encompassed all three purpose of loan categories, the largest relative increase being for newly erected dwellings, which increased by 4.4 per cent, followed by construction of dwellings, up 3.3 per cent, and purchase of established dwellings, up 3.1 per cent.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS By all lenders



Seasonally adjusted, finance was committed to individuals to finance 33,911 dwelling units for owner occupation in April 1992. This was the highest number of dwellings units financed, in seasonally adjusted terms, since July 1988.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, APRIL 1992 Trend estimates

Purpose of commitment	Number of dwellings	Percentage change from	
		Precious month	Corresponding month of previous year
Construction of dwellings	6,566	3.3	24.4
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	1,876	4.4	35.4
Purchase of established dwellings	24,723	3.1	28.0
Total	33,167	3.2	27.6

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (5609.0)*, or contact Mark Dennis on (06) 252 7129 or Harry Wilson on (06) 252 6170.

Road freight movement down

Total interstate road freight moved by major operators during March quarter 1992 was 9.6 per cent lower than in December quarter 1991. This drop is in line with previous years, when the March quarter figures typically were lower than those reported in the previous December quarter.

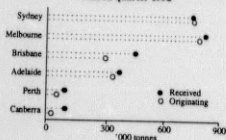
However, the tonnage moved in the quarter was a significant 10.7 per cent lower than the figure for the March quarter 1991.

INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, MARCH QUARTER 1992

	Road freight originating		Road freight received	
	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter
Sydney	764	-4.6	757	-10.9
Melbourne	794	-9.9	826	-3.2
Brisbane	293	-10.9	447	-7.5
Adelaide	332	-13.6	365	-9.8
Perth	56	-21.2	94	-13.1
Canberra	30	-3.8	97	-5.7
Other	874	-10.6	557	-17.2
Total	3,143	-9.6	3,143	-9.6

For further information, order the publication *Interstate Road Freight Movement, Australia (9214.0)*, or contact Choon Looi on (06) 252 5458.

INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT March quarter 1992



Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order
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All the week's releases: 10 to 16 June

General

Publications Advice, 12 June 1992 (1105.0; free)

Publications Advice, 16 June 1992 (1105.0; free)

Statistics Weekly, 11 June 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)

Social statistics

National Health Survey: Health Risk Factors, Qld, 1989-90
(4380.3; \$80.00) — *new issue*

National Health Survey: Health Risk Factors, SA, 1989-90 (4380.4; \$80.00)
— *new issue*

National Health Survey: Health Risk Factors, Tas., 1989-90
(4380.6; \$80.00) — *new issue*

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., April 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., May 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)

The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, May 1992
(6271.0; \$65.00)

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., April 1992 (6312.0; \$11.00)

Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., May 1992 (6410.0; \$5.50)

Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., April 1992
(6415.0; \$10.50)

Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, April 1992 (7204.3; \$5.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Census of Mining Establishments: Summary of Operations by Industry Class, Aust., 1990-91, Preliminary (8401.0; \$10.50)

Retail Trade, Aust., April 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)

Building Activity, Aust.: Dwelling Unit Commencements, March Qtr 1992, Preliminary (8750.0; \$10.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, February 1992 (8741.1; \$10.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, February 1992 (8741.3; \$10.50)

Building Approvals, Tas., April 1992 (8731.6; \$10.50)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., April 1992 (9303.0; \$10.50)

Motor Vehicle Census: Aust., 30 September 1991 (9309.0; \$16.00)

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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(06) 252 6104

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 30 June 1992

June

- 18** Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, February 1992 (6302.0; \$10.50)
Export Price Index, Australia, April 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)
- 19** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, April 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
- 23** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, April 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
- 25** Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, May 1992 (6354.0; \$12.00)
Import Price Index, Australia, April 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Australia, May 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
- 26** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, April 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, April 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, May 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)

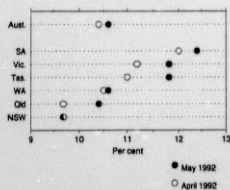
The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 16 June 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 91)*	-25.6	-17.7	-10.8	-3.6	1.1	-51.4	n.a.	n.a.	-17.4
Retail turnover (Apr. 92) (trend estimate)	6.1	4.2	8.0	-0.4	9.3	4.3	n.a.	8.2	5.8
New motor vehicle registrations (Apr. 92)†	11.2	14.8	-19.7	-3.1	5.6	-6.3	-6.5	-13.9	2.1
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Apr. 92)	31.0	29.8	19.9	14.5	42.8	3.2	319.2	149.2	30.4
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr 91)	-25.5	-25.4	4.4	-29.6	-12.9	3.4	4.3	3.4	-18.5
Employed persons (May 92)*	-1.2	-1.9	2.5	3.3	0.9	-3.3	6.8	0.9	0.7
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 92)	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	1.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Nov. 91)	4.7	4.1	3.0	5.3	4.3	3.0	4.8	4.0	4.2
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Dec. qtr 91)	3.2	3.6	10.1	-2.6	8.3	3.6	2.8	2.9	5.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted



Key national indicators – consolidated to 16 June 1992

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
		Period		Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production							
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984–85 prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92		n.a.	64,762	0.6	0.8
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92		4,944	5,565	-2.7	-21.3
— 1984–85 prices		"		3,898	4,386	-2.3	-18.0
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Three months to June 92		6,727	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	Apr. 92		7,729	8,040	2.9	9.5
— 1984–85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 92		14,755	15,531	1.1	2.1
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	Apr. 92		39,263	42,734	-12.6	2.1
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Apr. 92		13,100	13,934	9.7	35.8
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"		1,677	1,792	4.1	18.2
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	Dec. qtr 91		5,977.4	5,675.6	-3.6	-18.5
— 1984–85 prices	"	"		3,846.5	3,652.3	-3.9	-16.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Mar. qtr 92		32,884	35,130	1.8	0.6
— 1984–85 prices	"	"		22,814	24,284	1.1	-1.3
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to June 92		35,070	n.a.	n.a.	-2.0
Labour							
Employed persons	'000	May 92		7,687.5	7,663.0	-0.1	-0.7
Unemployment rate †	%	"		10.7	10.6	0.2	1.2
Participation rate †	"	"		63.0	62.7	0.0	-0.6
Job vacancies	'000	Feb. 92		27.6	26.6	3.1	-4.5
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"		1.10	1.12	5.7	-6.3
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1989–90 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92		107.6	n.a.	0.0	1.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984–85 = 100.0	Mar. 92		120.0	n.a.	-0.7	0.8
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988–89 = 100.0	Mar. 92		111.6	n.a.	0.0	1.0
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Mar. qtr 92		2,779	3,469	12.8	37.7
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) (e)	\$	Feb. 92		588.80	n.a.	1.7	4.4
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Mar. 92		7.55	n.a.	0.05	-4.05
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"		9.90	n.a.	-0.15	-1.50
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Apr. 92		4,590	4,762	5.4	8.0
Imports of merchandise	"	"		4,098	4,327	0.2	4.5
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"		492	435	116.4	62.9
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"		342	285	702.5	850
Balance on current account (c)	"	"		-798	-897	9.6	-32.3
Terms of trade (d)	1984–85 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92		n.a.	100.2	2.8	0.6
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92		148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"		199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
US\$	per \$A	Apr. 92		0.7627	n.a.	0.5	-2.2
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"		58.1	n.a.	0.3	-2.5
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 91		17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Mar. 92		218	206	-1.6	16.2

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 18 June 1992.
 NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.
 Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).
 Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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